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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

HEALTH OF  
DRONFIELD

for

1947

By JOHN REID GRAHAM, M.B.,Ch..B,D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



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**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1947

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1947.

The vital statistics show little difference from the previous year. There is an increase in the birth rate of 6 per 1000, but as I pointed out in previous reports the numbers dealt with are so small that one or two births more or less make a very appreciable difference in the statistical figures.

There have been again no deaths reported from puerperal causes and no notifications of any case of puerperal pyrexia.

I should like to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the helpful co-operation of Mr. Housecroft and my other fellow officials at the Manor House.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM,  
Medical Officer of Health.



## HOUSING.

The year saw good progress in the erection of new houses of the traditional type and a good start on the B.I.S.F. permanent prefabricated houses. While much remains to be done I think it can be said that the worst cases of overcrowding were dealt with and that with the completion of the new estates Dronfield will be, in comparison with many districts, in quite a good position in regard to overcrowding.

When going round investigating one could not help but suspect that in certain instances overcrowding was deliberately created in order to get priority for a Council house.

With regard to the substandard houses in what one might term the demolition category it is becoming more and more evident that it will not be possible to demolish any but the very worst for some years to come.

The substandard house remains a problem. In many instances the only real remedy is demolition, but action under Section 11 is ruled out by the "repair at reasonable expense" clause. There is too the fact that rents are still controlled at a pre-war level, costs of repairs have increased well over 100%, leaving very little money for any extensive repairs.

This problem has given many authorities anxious thought and both Birmingham and Manchester Corporations have bought much of this type of property and brought up to a reasonable state of repair, realising that such houses will remain in occupation for some years and that this procedure is in the interests of tenants.

There is one compensating factor for the tenants of the substandard house, that is the low rent. Most of the houses I refer to are let at a rental of well under 10/- per week, whereas the average new Council house is nearly 20/- per week. This extra 10/- is a very big item indeed in the budget of the lower paid worker, and indeed from experience we find that a number prefer to put up with the inconvenience of an old cottage at 7/6 per week rather than pay the rent of a Council house.

There is one aspect of the demolition programme when it does come should receive consideration and should not be omitted from any planning considered now, that is the proper re development of clearance areas.

One can foresee new estates separated from the older parts of townships with ugly vacant spaces here and there; if the new could be linked up with the old then better balanced development would result. To this end Councils should endeavour to obtain possession of demolition areas so that redevelopment would add to the amenities of their districts.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS, 1947.

Table showing the number of specimens sent from the Urban District, and entered at the County Laboratory, Derby.

	Positive	Negative
Typhoid ... ..	—	—
Salmonella including para-typhoid	—	—
Brucella Abortus and B. dysentery	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	3	70
Vincent's Angina ... ..	—	4
Haemolytic Streptococci	1	4
Phthisis ... ..	—	1
* Water ... ..	—	—
Milk:—		
* Meth. Blue, Routine Samples	15	23
B. Coli, do.	5	31
* Phos. Test do.	—	—
* Meth. Blue, Heat Treatment Scheme	—	12
T.B. (Inoculation Test) ...	—	13
Routine Samples)		
T.B. (Inoculation Test) ...	—	—
Min. of Agriculture.		
Miscellaneous ... ..	—	1
Totals	24	159

\* Positive—Unsatisfactory.  
Negative—Satisfactory.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year the incidence of infectious disease increased somewhat but was not higher than normal for the country as a whole except in Diphtheria; 5 cases were notified, 2 being carriers who did not develop clinical symptoms other than slight sore throats.

There was also a small epidemic of measles, but there were no fatal cases.

One case of anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) was notified. This occurred in an adult and the case had bad residual paralysis and is still under treatment.

Disease	Total Number Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	2	—
Diphtheria	5	5	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Polio-myelitis	1	1	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—
Measles	69	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—



# Tuberculosis Return for 1947.

Age Period	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 & over	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 & over	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 & over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
Cases included above	Not Primary				Not Notified			
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS

Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st January and 31st December, 1947.

Age under 5 years	...	...	...	...	13
Age 5 years and over, but under 15	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of children given a					
secondary or reinforcing injection	...	...	...	...	—
Total					14

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

# BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FOR THE YEAR 1947.

	England and Wales	126 C.B's. and great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resi- dent Popula- tion 25,000— 50,000, at 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Dronfield U.D.C.
Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population:—					
Live Births	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7	22.23
Still Births	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.55
<b>Deaths:—</b>					
All causes	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	11.11
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.13
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—					
Deaths under 1 year of age	41	47	36	37	52
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	0.00
Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population:—					
<b>Notifications:—</b>					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	0.27
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	0.13
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.69
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.27
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	9.58
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.27
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)					
<b>Notifications:—</b>					
Puerperal fever				1.21	
Puerperal pyrexia	7.16	8.99	6.27	6.94	0.00

**CAUSES OF DEATH in the DRONFIELD URBAN DISTRICT  
during 1947.**

	Male	Female
All causes ... ..	52	28
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers ... ..	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	0	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	1	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	1	0
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	0	0
Influenza ... ..	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0
Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph ... ..	0	0
Ac. Inf. Enceph ... ..	0	0
Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F) ... ..	0	0
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	1	2
Cancer of Breast ... ..	0	0
Cancer of other sites ... ..	5	3
Diabetes ... ..	0	0
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	7	5
Heart disease ... ..	16	3
Other dis. of circulatory system ... ..	1	1
Bronchitis ... ..	4	0
Pneumonia ... ..	2	3
Other resp. dis. ... ..	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	0	0
Appendicitis ... ..	0	0
Other Digestive diseases ... ..	1	2
Nephritis ... ..	1	5
Puer. and Post-Abortion Sepsis ... ..	0	0
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	0	0
Premature Birth ... ..	3	0
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Dis. ... ..	2	0
Suicide ... ..	1	0
Other violent causes ... ..	1	0
Road Traffic Accident ... ..	0	0
All other causes ... ..	3	2

# TREATMENT CENTRE, POOLSBROOK

Number of cases, 719.

Scabies.—	Adults	5-15	under 5	Total
Chesterfield R.D.C.	211	117	34	362
Clay Cross U.D.C.	8	1	2	11
Clowne R.D.C.	67	39	17	123
Dronfield U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.	65	21	12	98
Totals	351	178	65	594

## Head Lice.—

Chesterfield R.D.C.	6(1)	28(20)	5(3)	39(24)
Clay Cross U.D.C.	1(0)	1(0)	1(1)	3(1)
Clowne R.D.C.		7(3)	1(1)	8(4)
Dronfield U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.		7(7)		7(7)
Totals	7(1)	43(30)	7(5)	57(36)

## Scabies with verminous heads.—

Chesterfield R.D.C.	7(3)	31(22)	4(2)	42(27)
Clay Cross U.D.C.		1(1)	1(0)	2(1)
Clowne R.D.C.	1(0)	10(6)	3(0)	14(6)
Dronfield U.D.C.	0	0	0	0
Staveley U.D.C.	3(1)	3(2)	2(1)	8(4)
Totals	11(4)	45(31)	10(3)	66(38)

Add 38 cases diagnosis NOT confirmed.

26 " miscellaneous.

4 " Ped. Pubis (2 Chesterfield, 2 Staveley—All adults).

68

Note.—Figures in brackets refer to cases where live lice were found.

## POOLSBROOK TREATMENT CENTRE.

From the table it will be seen that the treatment centre did not have any cases to deal with from Dronfield U.D.C. Generally scabies has shown a big decrease and also the number of cases of head infestation.

While the former is a true decrease in the number of cases I cannot help thinking that this is not the case with head infestation. In a recent survey of head infestation found in cases admitted to the four hospitals it was found that there was no decrease compared to Dr. Mellanby's survey in 1940. The most deplorable feature was that infestation of females in the age group 5—15 was over 25%.

It may be thought that the existence of the centre does not justify the expense but I feel that it still fulfils an essential purpose and that its work will be considerably augmented under the new powers given to Local Authorities under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

## DRONFIELD WATER SUPPLY.

The supply during the year was of adequate quantity and quality. While at the height of the drought great care had to be exercised, there was no actual shortage.

Samples were taken at regular intervals by the Sanitary Inspector and also by the supplying authority; any unsatisfactory samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector are immediately reported to the Water Engineer.

Samples taken:—

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
By N.E. Derbyshire Joint Water Committee	58	47	11
By Dronfield U.D.C.	24	17	7

**SANITARY INSPECTOR AND  
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT'S  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 1947**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit for your consideration my report on the work of the department during the year 1947.

**HOUSING.**

The urgent necessity for more houses needs no word of mine to describe or emphasise it.

A very large proportion of the older houses in the district are sub-standard and when "Slum Clearance" schemes become the vogue again, the rehousing problem of to-day will re-enact itself as new properties will have to be built to rehouse the present occupiers.

A casual walk round these old properties gives a bad enough impression, but to really appreciate the difficulties under which these people are living, you must go inside, when you realize that there is only one cold water tap over a sink (very often an old stone sink) no method of getting hot water except by gas ring or a kettle on the fire, food storage facilities non-existent, all personal ablutions confined to the stone sink, a walk outside to the water closet varying from three to thirty yards, then the ordinary accepted necessities of life—bath, hot and cold water, lavatory basin, water closet, white glazed sink, etc., must seem like a glimpse of fairyland to these people.

The day when a bath was considered a luxury is gone forever, let us sincerely hope never to return.

It is hoped that in my next report, I shall be able to give a few details as to the numbers of houses which will have to be treated as "Slum property".



The question of conversion of privy middens has been followed up and most owners (where water and sewer is available) have been requested to carry out the necessary work. During this year the net result has been the provision of five water closets. Four pail closets have been provided in lieu of two privy middens where sewer is not available.

## HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION, SALVAGE AND DISPOSAL.

One Dennis 10 cubic yard Refuse Collection vehicle with trailer is used, part-time assistance is given for emptying middens by a lorry loaned by the Surveyor's Department.

During the year the amount of refuse to collect gradually increased due to the progress of house building in the district. A total of 107 houses, 31 by Private Enterprise and 76 by the Local Authority were added to the rounds.

The Salvage side of the department had a fairly successful year, the total monetary return being £489-9-10 as against £211 during the previous 12 months.

### SALVAGE RECOVERED AND SOLD.

#### Salvage Sales.

	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	31	8	0	206	2	3
Kitchen Waste	29	15	3	51	11	0
Textiles	1	12	2	21	14	11
Scrap Metal	22	19	2	37	3	7
Bottles and Jars	12	17	1	160	14	5
Cullet (broken glass)	2	4	0	3	16	11
Cinders	2	7	0	3	10	6
Non-Ferrous Metals		2	1 6 lbs.	4	16	3
	103	7	1 6 lbs.	489	9	10

### DISPOSAL.

The present site for tipping is fast filling up and during 1948 another site will have to be obtained.



## CESSPOOLS.

These are a never-ending source of trouble and it is desirable that the whole of the area be sewered at an early date.

Detailed record of visits made during the year which totalled 2169 is made up as follows:—

	Visits
Conversion of Privy Middens to Water Closets ...	71
Conversion of Privy Middens to Pail Closets ...	8
Ashpits for conversion to dustbins ... ..	9
Defective Water Closets ... ..	38
Defective Pail Closets ... ..	1
Choked drains ... ..	53
Defective Drains ... ..	22
Drain testing ... ..	23
Defective dustbins ... ..	59
Re general housing defects ... ..	191
Re Council house maintenance ... ..	413
Housing Applicants in Dronfield ... ..	246
Housing Applicants for outside Authorities ... ..	2
Refuse Collection and Salvage ... ..	174
Re Surveyor's duties ... ..	262
Building Licences ... ..	104
Land Charges Inquiry ... ..	36
Habitation Certificates ... ..	41
Water Sampling ... ..	32
Factories Sanitary Accommodation ... ..	12
Factories Fire Escape Certificates ... ..	3
Alleged dirty houses ... ..	3
Verminous premises ... ..	21
Farms and dairies ... ..	63
Food preparation premises ... ..	13
Infectious diseases ... ..	12
Offensive smells ... ..	7
Petroleum licences ... ..	16
Piggeries ... ..	6
Ice cream makers and retailers ... ..	10
Overcrowding ... ..	1

Rats and Mice Destruction Act ... ..	20
Schools ... ..	4
Priority Certificates re repairs ... ..	6
Miscellaneous ... ..	144
Places of entertainment ... ..	7
Interviews with owners and builders ... ..	32
Work done.	
No. of middens converted to Water Closets ... ..	5
No. of middens converted to Pail Closets ... ..	2
No. of Pails provided for above ... ..	4
Defective pail closet pails renewed ... ..	1
Water Closets repaired ... ..	13
Choked drains cleared ... ..	15
Houses affected ... ..	34
Defective drains repaired ... ..	3
New drains constructed ... ..	350 ft
of four inches.	
New drains tested ... ..	26
New manholes constructed ... ..	4
Sink waste pipes repaired ... ..	3
New glazed sinks fitted ... ..	2
Ashpits replaced by dustbins ... ..	3
Dustbins supplied to private houses ... ..	60
Dustbins supplied to Council houses by the dept. ...	11
To kitchen waste collection ... ..	11
Defective chimneys replaced ... ..	3
Defective house roof replaced ... ..	12
New eaves spouts fitted ... ..	120 ft
House floors repaired ... ..	5
" doors repaired ... ..	4
" wall plaster repaired ... ..	18
" ceilings repaired ... ..	6
" fireplaces repaired or renewed... ..	5
" windows recorded ... ..	6
" yards repaired ... ..	2
Burst water pipes repaired ... ..	6
Defective taps repaired ... ..	3
Premises disinfected after infectious disease ...	11

Premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Household goods disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public houses provided with sink and hot and cold water for glass washing	...	...	...	...	...	1

#### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACTS.

Premises treated and cleared	...	...	...	...	...	9
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#### MILK SAMPLING.

Forty ordinary raw milk samples were taken during the year of which 25 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test, fifteen failed, ten showed evidence of *Bacillus Coli*.

Fourteen samples were submitted to the Guinea Pig test (T.B.) ten being satisfactory; in the case of the other four the guinea pigs died before the test was completed.

In general, the standard is satisfactory except for one case where the samples generally failed to satisfy the tests.

Fifteen samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase test, these were all satisfactory.

During the year the one Pasteurising Plant in the area went out of production, a Sheffield firm buying the dairy business concerned. The milk is now treated in Sheffield.

#### ICE CREAM REGISTRATIONS—Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

The following premises were registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

1. "The Cross Dairy", Coal Aston—J. V. Ronksley.
2. Sales Shop, High Street,—John Shenthall, Ltd.
3. 48, Chesterfield Road,—Gladys Jordon.

The following premises were registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream.

1. "The Cross Dairy", Coal Aston,—J. V. Ronksley.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) ERIC M. HOUSECROFT,  
Sanitary Inspector and  
Cleansing Supt.



